

KENTVILLE CONNECTION

Your town. Your news.

Volume 1, Number 2

Fall/Winter 2007

Message from the mayor



Welcome to the second edition of Kentville Connection. I hope that you've found this newsletter an effective avenue

through which we can share information and ideas. All feedback that we have received so far has been very positive.

As you know, I am proud to be mayor of Kentville and pleased to have Kentville designated as the #1 town in Nova Scotia by Richard Rogers in his 2006 book The Towns of Nova Scotia - Profiles and Ratings. It would seem that civic pride is contagious as evident with bustling downtown traffic, new shops and development and several façade improvements and renovations being completed by local businesses. Many new homes are being built in our subdivisions and the Department of Education has committed to building Kentville's new school by 2010. It could be said that Kentville is a "boom town!"

With this prosperity, however, comes the responsibility to balance growth with quality-of-living
See page 2



A life-like pumpkin person visited harvest festival.

Fall fun at Harvest Festival

The sun was shining and the pumpkin people were coming to life at Kentville's Harvest Festival on Oct. 6.

Centre Square was a bustling hub of fall family fun with a farmers market, wagon rides, pony rides, live music, art with Ross Creek Centre for the Arts and much more.

Many special guests made an appearance at the Festival including Mayor Dave Corkum, Kings North MLA Mark Parent, Queen Annapolis Kathryn Cleveland and Princess Kentville Sandra Brehaut. Special thanks to everyone who helped make Harvest Festival a great success.

IN THIS ISSUE

PUMPKIN PEOPLE

Check out the Pumpkin People contest winners:
Page 3

CENTRESTAGE

This community-based live theatre company is doing exciting things in Kentville. **Page 5**

THE CIRCUS

Michael Hirschbach brings Circus Circle to Kentville this fall. **Page 6**

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the second edition of Kentville Connection, Kentville's new community newsletter.

Thank you to all who provided feedback on our first edition and also to those who have contributed story ideas for this edition. I'm certain that you will enjoy reading this issue.

In the next few pages you will hear about Centre Stage Theatre, the new seniors development in downtown Kentville, the very successful Kentville Farmers Market and much more.

As always, your submissions of story ideas and photos for Kentville Connection are very welcome. Please submit them via email to emason@kingsced.ns.ca.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Erin Mason
Editor

P.S. Don't forget about the torchlight parade Nov. 22 at 6:15 p.m., starting behind town hall. See you there.



The Kings Fiddlers provided great entertainment at Harvest Festival on Oct.6.



Families enjoyed wagon rides around centre square during Harvest Festival.

Mayor's message

From page 1

and to ensure that development is sustainable. Fortunately, our councilors are committed to these priorities and our staff is conscientious, professional and dedicated to serving the public in various capacities.

Because municipal government is grass roots government, it can only be truly representative if good communication exists between its citizens and decision-makers. Here in Kentville, citizen input is a valuable resource and accordingly, opportunities exist for public involvement. Positions are available annually on various advisory committees, invitations are extended for public meetings, feedback is encouraged prior to approval of bylaws or amendments to them, and our citizens are always welcome to drop in at the town hall, telephone us, or send a letter or e-mail. Your opinion is a very important part of the decision-making process and we encourage you to continue to be in touch.

Mayor David L. Corkum

Congratulations to our pumpkin people contest winners



Most artistic business: A Beautiful Bouquet



Most humorous business: On-line Support



Most original business: McDonald Chisholm Trask



Most artistic residential: Stigter Family



Most humorous residential: Hynes Family



Most original residential: Fisher Family

Department updates

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

Contractors are busy completing the 2007/2008 Capital Works Project. The water line on Woodworth Road has been completely renewed and underground services have been replaced on Crescent Avenue. New storm sewer systems and new concrete curb and sidewalk have been constructed on several streets around town and a section of sidewalk is being replaced on Cornwallis Street. Remediation is also continuing on the former CP Lands and the eventual extension of River Street.

We also continue to upgrade our water system to address security issues and automated data reporting, a requirement necessary for the NS Department of Environment and Labour.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

With the fall upon us many people are using woodstoves and fireplaces. Care should be taken when using any wood-burning appliance. Chimneys should be checked and cleaned at least once a year, and wood being used should be dry. Ashes should be emptied into a metal bucket and immediately taken outside and placed away from buildings and combustibles, as they can hold their heat for days.

PLANNING

Helpful information on building or development permits:

Many people do not realize that they must obtain permits for most construction, change of use and/or alteration projects and for the erection of signs on their property. Understanding and fulfilling these requirements will ensure compliance with the legal use bylaw, building code and fire codes, thus avoiding potential legal action.

These 2 main permits are required for the majority of projects:

A development permit is written approval that your plans for the property including construction, alterations and/or a change in use and the erection of signs complies with the Town of Kentville's Land Use Bylaw.

A building permit is required for buildings and structures to ensure compliance with the building code and fire code.

A building and/or a development permit is required for the following: New building construction; Structural change; Building demolition; Building relocation; Change of occupancy or use; Swimming pools (deeper than 24 inches/ 60 cm); Building repairs or renovations; Re-roofing where the roof pitch is being changed; Interior alterations; Accessory buildings that are greater than 215 square feet in floor area; Decks & stairs; Roof enclosure over an existing or new deck; Fences greater Than 2m (6ft) in height; Replacing doors and windows in existing openings, when the structure is altered; Replacing roofing, where the structure is altered.

If you plan on making changes to your property, please contact Frank MacFarlane at 679-2531 at Kentville's plan-

ning department.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Council ratified the 2007/2008 Operating Budget for the Town of Kentville on June 13, 2007.

The total Residential tax rate in Kentville has remained stable. The total Commercial tax rate has increased to offset the loss in Business Occupancy assessments. A residential dwelling assessed at \$ 100,000 for 2007 would pay a tax bill of **\$1,343.20**. A corporate citizen assessed at \$ 100,000 for 2007 would pay a tax bill of **\$3,044.20**.

KENTVILLE POLICE SERVICE

In the summer the police service installed video cameras in the centre square area. These cameras allow the service to monitor this area 24/7 for any inappropriate behavior and respond accordingly. It is not meant to replace the vehicle and foot patrol functions in the downtown, but do add an extra measure of security in the area when the members are busy elsewhere. Additionally, we have through the Protection of Properties Act legislation, added signage to stop particular behaviors in the area. The posting of the signs will provide the police service with better enforcement options than in the past. We are committed to making the centre square area a safe place for our citizens to meet and carry on community activities such as the very successful farmers market.

Enforcement activities have increased in the downtown related to overtime parking. The focus is on the frequent offenders using a ticket and tow strategy. Instead of using staff parking lots we find that many people who work in the downtown park their vehicles close to their place of work thereby preventing customers from being able to find parking. Previous tickets, visits to these businesses and letters asking for general compliance have been tried in the past with limited success. The motor vehicle act allows for towing after three violations. Vehicles with 3 or more tickets that continue to take up customer parking you may be towed. By taking a customer parking spot you cost yourself and other businesses hundreds of dollars per hour in lost sales.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Torch Light Parade is coming up on November 22nd so bring the whole family downtown for the parade and carol sing followed by a skating party and delicious hot chocolate at the Arena. Call 679-2500 for more information.

Work on the Ducks Unlimited Miner Marsh project continues. Much of the trail system and interpretive signage will be in place by January 2008. The bridge and final components of the trail system will be finished by 2009. The Ducks Unlimited project will be a great addition to Kentville's green space providing a great place for recreation and educational opportunities.

CentreStage theatre spotlight

Community-based theatre doing exciting things in Kentville

By Erin Mason

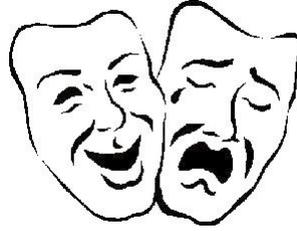
Kentville's CentreStage Theatre is known as "the little theatre with the big heart," fitting for a relatively small troupe run entirely by volunteers whose five main objectives each speak of encouraging, stimulating and fostering community based theatre.

CentreStage was born in 1984 of a dream of several Kentville residents with their first plays performed in the converted basement of Lawton's on Main Street. CentreStage's original founders nurtured the Theatre for fourteen years and in 1998, a new group of individuals took leadership and with this change, the CentreStage Theatre of today, now in its 24th season at 61 River Street, began to take shape.

The move from Main St. to River Street and a new and larger facility was possible with the sweat-equity of many dedicated volunteers, the generous support of public and private donors and a visionary board of directors. In their current venue on River Street, CentreStage continuously delivers high-quality plays, from comedies to mystery-thrillers, musicals and theatre camps.

"About 80 per cent of our visitors come from the Annapolis Valley," says Laura Churchill Duke, CentreStage's Chair of Marketing and Publicity. "But the more times you get someone through the door the more likely they will return," she says, "so it's important that we provide quality entertainment every time; it gives us return visitors and strengthens our reputation."

Running a community theatre strictly on what is taken in at the box office and on donations from generous private citizens is no easy task and have meant some difficult times for CentreStage. There were times



CentreStage Theatre

when month to month existence was all that could be managed - but manage they did. Times are different today as CentreStage has built a strong reputation and following in Kentville and in the Annapolis Valley community however, their success still depends upon ticket sales, advertisements, membership fees, and donations by generous patrons.

CentreStage is now completely self-sustaining and is currently undertaking an ambitious fundraising project named Building a Legacy – 24 Seasons and Counting. "We need to raise \$500,000 to buy our building and do some renovations," says Churchill Duke. "It will give

us the opportunity to expand our current theatre and make it more of a community centre for the arts – we want to be able to do more." The \$500,000 will be raised with a mix of special events and generous donations. Churchill Duke is working on this campaign and also on CentreStage's business plan to assist in securing several large donors for the building purchase. "It's

overwhelming as owning our own building will mean we will have a lot more responsibility," says Churchill Duke. "Drawing up our own plans for renovation gives a real sense of ownership," she says. "And with this new ownership comes a new sense of responsibility but we know it's worth it."

CentreStage's next production is Nunsense, a musical comedy by Dan Goggin. Nunsense will run from November 1st to December 15th.

For more information on Centre Stage's current shows, upcoming productions or to contribute to their fundraising campaign, Building a Legacy – 24 Seasons and Counting, please visit www.centrestagetheatre.ca



CentreStage Theatre's upcoming production of Nunsense Country Jamboree includes (from left) Angie Campbell, Sharon Churchill, Jillian MacDonald Donna Holmes and Ross Chapman.

The circus comes to Kentville

By Erin Mason

The circus has come to Kentville! The Circus Circle program in Kentville started October 24 at the Kentville Recreation Centre.

Circus Circle is part of Cirque de Monde, the social outreach program of the spectacular Cirque de Soliel. The Circus Circle program is making its debut in Kentville under the leadership of Michael Hirschbach, a former performer with Cirque de Soliel and master trainer with Cirque de Monde. As a teacher and playwright, Hirschbach's passion for the circus and belief in its social benefits for youth is what led him to start the Circus Circle program first in Halifax and now in Kentville.

Halifax's established Circus Circle program is focused on street-involved and homeless youth and is entering its fourth month at St. Matthew's United Church on Barrington Street. "Circus Circle welcomes people from all backgrounds," says Hirschbach, "and that's really the power of it."

Circus Circle teaches a variety of challenging and fun circus skills from tightrope walking and unicycle to acrobatics and devil sticks. The program begins at a local level with a strong community connection which Hirschbach says is important to its success. Although at the surface, Circus Circle teaches circus skills, the message and mandate of Circus Circle is more important than simply walking a tightrope or riding a unicycle. "At a very basic level, circus skills are very simple," says Hirschbach. "Progress is easy to monitor and it's always pushing physical boundaries; participants learn these skills and they learn them for life," he says. "Participants are also learning trust, confidence, communication, a sense of community and of course, fun."

Circus Circle is really designed to assist with change. "The success of Circus Circle is not when participants can do circus work," says Hirschbach, "it's when they take their life in a different direction because of the skills they've learned." The changes for each participant are very different; these changes could mean finding work, going back to school or mending a

relationship with a family member or friend. "When you work on physical activities and start to see the possibilities and your capabilities opening up," says Hirschbach, "you can apply it in different areas of your life and you know what you can really do."

Circus Circle's Halifax program has been a great success and now Hirschbach is very pleased to be



Michael Hirschbach puts students in a class through their paces.

offering this program in Kentville, however Kentville's Circus Circle has a different focus and a broader reach. In Kentville, everyone aged 16 to 30 with an interest in learning circus skills is invited to participate in Circus Circle. Just a few of the skills participants will learn include: juggling with balls, hula hoops, devil sticks and diabolos; dance, stretching, yoga, unicycle and more.

It's a great opportunity to meet new people, learn circus skills, do something outside the typical comfort zone of most and of course, have fun. Participants will also gain character and confidence building skills that develop naturally in this positive encouraging setting.

Interested? Come join Michael Hirschbach every Wednesday starting October 24th until December 19th at the Kentville Rec Centre at 354 Main Street from 7pm – 9pm. Circus Circle is free to all participants and best of all, it's fun.

Circus Circle is made possible by the generous support of The United Way, The Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection and the Town of Kentville.

For more information on Circus Circle, visit www.circuscircle.ca To learn more about Michael Hirschbach visit www.circusmike.ca.

Kentville's farmers market a big hit



A sunny Wednesday at the Kentville farmer's market.

By Erin Mason

From mouth watering Scottish shortbread to organic ointments and lotions, this summers Kentville Farmers Market provided an eclectic mix of farm fresh produce and meats, handmade crafts, baked goods to market goers in Kentville's Centre Square.

The new mid-week Kentville Farmers Market, a new project of the Town of Kentville, was an impressive success by all accounts. With the assistance, knowledge and determination of several members of the Wolfville Farmers Market Co-op and Coordinator, Cathy Millner, the Kentville Market began on July 11. About 20 vendors brought their high quality products to Kentville each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and after two months of sunny Wednesdays and great sales, the market was extended until September 26th.

The logic behind a mid-week market, a divergence from the popular weekend farmers market, was very simple – cater to the many

people who work, live and especially those who do business in Kentville during the day. With Kentville being the professional centre it is, the mid-week market was a natural fit. "It takes a lot of work for vendors to prepare for a market which makes a mid-week market an obvious choice," says Linda MacDougall, a longtime vendor at the Wolfville farmers market who is also part of the new Kentville market. She added that attendance from Kentville residents at the Wolfville

farmers market was low and therefore the new Kentville market would "provide a service to Kentville and promote local produce." "I think the Kentville market has been a resounding success," says Linda. "Customers were stopping to thank us for coming."

Market coordinator Cathy Miller also heard plenty of positive comments about the new Kentville market. "With the positive feedback from customers and vendors, the mid-week market has been a great success and everyone seems pleased with the variety of products offered" she says. "I feel that next year will be bigger and better and believe that the Kentville market is here to stay."

With not one rainy Wednesday in three months, great sales and positive feedback from customers, there's a good chance that the Kentville farmers market will be back next summer.



<any organix products were availale at the market.

Have you heard?

Cara Mia Gelato manager Linda Power and her staff had a busy summer educating customers about gelato and sorbetto, the tempting and refreshing treat with fewer calories than regular ice cream.

"It's taken a while for people to know the difference of gelato and ice cream but after four months, people are thrilled that the gelato experience is here in Kentville," says Power. "Many people have tasted gelato before but have been unable to get it in the Kentville."

Gelato is made with two per cent milk instead of the 18-26 percent butter fat in regular ice cream; a delicious treat for ice cream lovers and those with a sweet tooth. Cara Mia Gelato also offers Italian frozen cakes and take-home desserts and seasonal treats.

The shop is now also making gelato and sorbetto for Muddy's Convenience in Wolfville.

The Designer Café is finishing up its third month in business on Main Street. and according to owner Betty Ann Balcom, the past few months have been "absolutely amazing. People enjoy having another option in Kentville. We're trying to create an oasis...a unique atmosphere and fresh local food." The café's menu stays the same for the most part but daily specials offer delicious choices and also use the freshest seasonal valley products.

The café will soon be offering off-site catering for parties, meetings and events and will also hosting Friday and Saturday afternoon music hours.

Cleveland's Country Boutique is now **Occasions Gifts and Decor**. New owners Nat D'Aubin and Andrea Watts bought the business on Aug 20.

Occasions is a new store with a new look and great new products! They have TAG Décor, Upper Canada bath and body products, Webkinz, TY Dolls, Gourmet Village dips and salsa and the latest craze, Kameeleon jewelry and a newly expanded Christmas room.

Occasions also offers a wedding and baby shower registry, gift certificates for that special someone and gift wrapping.

Shop at Occasions and start your customer appreciation card; spend \$250 and receive \$30 off your next purchase.

Are you opening a new business in Kentville? We want to hear about it. Call Erin at 678-2699 to have your business included in have you heard.



The Hockley family created these pumpkin people in honour of Fred and Louise Hockley's 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Kentville Town Hall

Tel: 679-2500
www.town.kentville.ns.ca



Kentville Connection is the voice of residents, businesses and Town administration to keep Kentville residents informed about what's going on in their Town. For more information on Kentville connection, contact editor Erin Mason at 678-2669 or via e-mail at emason@kingsced.ns.ca